

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W

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P R 301809Z JAN 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5623

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0349

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, WA, MP, SF, AO

SUBJ: SC DEBATE ON NAMIBIA: MAURITIUS STATEMENT

1. GIVEN AFRICAN AND, PREDICTABLY, SOVIET DESIRE TO AVOID MENTION OF ANGOLA DURING CURRENT DEBATE IN SC ON NAMIBIA, MOST OF US WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO FIND THAT FIRST FOUR SPEAKERS IN DEBATE, WHICH OPENED MORNING JANUARY 27, SO RESTRAINED THEMSELVES. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY REMARKABLE IN THAT SPEAKERS WERE REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, SWAPO REP, REP OF GUINEA, AND PERMREP OF ALGERIA.

2. MAURITANIAN PERMREP RAMPHUL, AS UNPREDICTABLE AS WERE THE STATEMENTS OF THE PRECEDING SPEAKERS, THEN UPSET THE APPLE CART. HE LAUNCHED INTO TIRADE OVER ANGOLA WHICH SPARKED AFTERNOON REBUTTAL BY SOUTH AFRICA, AND COUNTERCHARGES BY USSR, TANZANIA, AND SWAPO, THEREBY ALTERING ENTIRE COMPLEXION OF DEBATE.

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3. PRESUMABLY, IN ADDITION TO SATISFYING HIS OWN EGO

-- ALWAYS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO RAMPHUL -- UPCOMING MAURITANIAN PRESIDENCY OF OAU WAS A FACTOR. NEVERTHELESS, RAMPHUL'S ACTION WAS COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED. RAMPHUL'S LANGUAGE WAS OUTRAGEOUS AND INSULTING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. RAMPHUL SAID, INTER ALIA, "MY DELEGATION WISHES TO CHALLENGE THE COUNTRIES WHICH EITHER ARE REPORTED AS BEING INVOLVED IN THIS ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OR HAVE OPENLY ADMITTED THEIR COLLABORATION TO EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION. I REFER IN PARTICULAR TO ONE MAJOR NUCLEAR POWER, A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHOSE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO ITS WIDELY REPORTED INVOLVEMENT IN HIS RECENT STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE TO ITS NATIONAL CONGRESS." RAMPHUL'S LANGUAGE IS SCURRILOUS, EVEN AS HIS PERSONAL LIFE IS SCANDALOUS.

4. WE HAVE HAD HINTS FROM BRITISH HERE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT RAMPHUL, APART FROM HIS PERSONAL SLEAZINESS, HAS BEEN BEHAVING INTOLERABLY AND SHOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM THE UN SCENE IF POSSIBLE. THE BRITISH MAY HAVE EVIDENCE THAT HIS PERNICIOUS BEHAVIOUR, OF WHICH PRESENT CASE IS ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE, REFLECTS HIS HAVING BEEN TAKEN INTO CAMP BY A COUNTRY HOSTILE TO WEST. BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD, AFTER APPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH THE BRITISH, CONSIDER WHETHER IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS OF THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THEIR REPRESENTATION IN NEW YORK.

5. TEXT OF RAMPHUL'S STATEMENT TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.
MOYNIHAN

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